

Perhaps his most profound gesture was presenting his Air Achievement Medal to the man who taught him life saving techniques and served as a mentor, his Northwest High School athletic trainer.

Sergeant Davidson has demonstrated a deep passion for his country and his community. I want to express my appreciation for his commendable efforts on behalf of his fellow citizens within the 26th District and for his valuable service to the State of Texas and our great Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF WARREN  
HECKMAN

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2012*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Warren Heckman who has spent his life serving our community and sharing his passion for music with those around him.

As a teacher and band instructor, Mr. Heckman brought the joy of music to hundreds of students for more than thirty years. He started teaching at South San Francisco High School in 1950, and created the Blue Knights, a jazz ensemble that won countless awards and put South San Francisco High School's music program on the map. The Blue Knights were one of the first high school jazz ensembles and paved the way for similar programs around the country. This jazz group is still part of South San Francisco High School's music program today.

Mr. Heckman's passion for music spread to his students, many of whom have remained in touch with him. In 2006, 180 former Blue Knights from around the country gathered together for a reunion. Many of them continue to play music, both recreationally and professionally, a testament to Mr. Heckman's influence on his pupils at such a transformative age.

In 1958, Mr. Heckman received his Master's degree from San Francisco State University. He also earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music in 1949 and a teaching credential in 1950 from the University of California-Berkeley where he met his wife, Marie, who has since passed away.

During World War II, Mr. Heckman served his country in the United States Navy. He entered the Navy in 1943 one month after graduating from high school. He attended college in Missouri for 18 months, then transferred to midshipman school at Cornell University where he received his commission in May 1945. He attended Fire Control School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Midway* CV-41. As a Fire Control Officer he spent one year on board the *Midway* until he was honorably discharged in July of 1946.

For many years, Mr. Heckman participated in community organizations, including a long tenure as a member of the South San Francisco Elks Lodge. In addition, he helped create the School Personnel Credit Union and led that organization for 17 years, contributing as a board member, secretary and president.

After retiring, Mr. Heckman began a successful business tuning pianos. At 87, Mr. Heckman continues to play the trombone with

a group of local musicians. Mr. Heckman believes that music is a lifetime adventure, and he's been playing the trombone since he was 7 or 8 years old.

Family has always been an important part of Mr. Heckman's life. He enjoys spending time with his son, Mark, and his daughter-in-law, Kathy, who live locally. His twin daughters, Patty and Tina, both live in Gridley, California. Mr. Heckman is also the proud grandfather of David, Sean, Kelly and JW, and the great-grandfather of James.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the outstanding service of Warren Heckman to the city of South San Francisco and the whole of San Mateo County. He was a role model for other teachers, a beacon for his students, and he will be remembered as an exceptional human being for many years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DON EDWARDS  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the first urban national Wildlife Refuge established in the United States. The Refuge is dedicated to preserving and enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting migratory birds, protecting threatened and endangered species, and providing opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation and nature study for the surrounding communities of the south San Francisco Bay area.

As of 2004, the Refuge spans 30,000 acres of diverse habitats throughout South San Francisco Bay, including open bay, salt ponds, salt marshes, mudflats, upland areas and vernal pools. Located along the Pacific Flyway, the Refuge hosts over 280 species of birds each year. Millions of shorebirds and waterfowl stop to refuel at the Refuge during the spring and fall migration. In addition to its seasonal visitors, the Refuge provides critical habitat to resident species like the endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. Today, hundreds of thousands of people visit the Refuge each year to enjoy its diverse wildlife and habitats.

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is part of a complex of six other wildlife refuges in the San Francisco Bay Area. Created by legislation signed by President Richard Nixon in 1972 as the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and administered since then by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it was renamed the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 1995 in recognition of Congressman Don Edwards' efforts to protect sensitive wetlands in the South San Francisco Bay.

I join in congratulating the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge on its 40th anniversary and I applaud the commitment of all who have contributed over these many years to preserving and protecting our precious San Francisco Bay.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOLY  
ANGELS CLASS OF 1969

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2012*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a rare and special occasion for 45 individuals who went to grammar school together 43 years ago. It is nothing short of remarkable that two thirds of the Holy Angels Class of 1969 will gather on this day of November 10, 2012 to reminisce and exaggerate old stories.

The Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus taught at Holy Angels, a Catholic school founded in 1952.

The Class of 1969 consisted of 45 students: Donna Abrahamson, Charlene Behnke, Robert Bernie, Kevin Chapot (deceased 2010), Raymond Ciardella, Shirley Conti, Richard Delgado, Mary Dillon, John Gallagher, Robert Gerugthy, Randy Golobic, Susan Gomez, Joseph Gordon, Kathleen Griffin, Dennis Harvey, Stephen Haight, Loretta Kelly, Patricia Kerns, Catherine Lapachet, Carole Lindsey, Patrick McLoughlin, James McCarthy, Maura Moran, Paul Nannini, Bruce Olmanson, Thomas O'Shea, Mary Pinelli, George Putkey, Elizabeth Randall, Timothy Rea, Marie Antoinette Rodriguez, Mary Rushka, Kimberly Seitz, Debra Sola, Terrie Sottile, Marialena Spadaro, George Tinetti, Barbara Trapp, Robert Trapp, Linda Tricceri, Peter Woolery, Nina Varni, Thomas York, David Zanini, and Loretta Zolezzi.

By today's standards, a class of 45 is unheard of, but the Holy Angels students assert that it didn't harm any of them in their later lives. They moved on to careers in teaching, public safety, law enforcement, the military, the medical field, and more. Many of them stayed right here in the Colma and Daly City area, home to Holy Angels.

The class of 1969 was the first second grade class to celebrate their First Holy Communion in 1963, a year after Holy Angels church was built. All of the teachers at the school were nuns, except for Miss Sandy Sheffield—unanimously voted everyone's favorite teacher in the 4th grade for her innovative and fun teaching style. Until Miss Sheffield brought in a piñata, most students had never seen one.

Another teacher bringing fond memories to the students is Miss Whitney who taught all the dance routines for the annual May Day festivities. Each class performed a variety of folk dances on this popular day of games and raffles.

Back in the day, the TV show "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." brought out the best in a group of Holy Angel girls portraying themselves as secret agents. They would pass around secret messages in an empty Chapstick container and they would reveal the locations of dangerous enemy agents via walkie talkies. The Class of 1969 refuses to disclose whether one of the class members later joined the CIA.

Life at Holy Angels wasn't all fun and games. In 1963, televisions were not part of the regular classroom, but when President Kennedy was assassinated, the nuns brought in TVs so that the students could witness the funeral.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the Holy Angels Class of 1969 which reminds all of us of